

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's death rate due to unintentional falls is twice the national average; and
WHEREAS, more than 231,500 Wisconsin citizens over age 65 fall every year, resulting in doctor visits, hospital admissions, emergency room visits, loss of functional independence, and even death; and

WHEREAS, fall-related hospitalizations and emergency room visits costs Wisconsin more than \$350 million annually, 90 percent of which is paid by Medicare; and

WHEREAS, multiple factors increase the risk of falls, including lack of strength in lower extremities, use of four or more medications, reduced vision, chronic health problems, and unsafe home conditions; and

WHEREAS, there are an array of proven, effective practices to prevent falls; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin is a leader in falls prevention research; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's Aging and Public Health Networks are leaders in providing evidence-based, falls prevention programs to older citizens throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, these programs, in combination with public health and health care preventive practices, reduce the likelihood of falls and support older persons in maintaining health and staying safe in their homes and communities; and

WHEREAS, reduction in the incidences of disability and death due to falls is a priority of *Healthiest Wisconsin 2010*;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jim Doyle, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim the month of **September 2009**, as

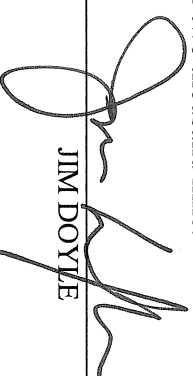
FALLS PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH

and further proclaim **September 22, 2009** as


FALLS PREVENTION AWARENESS DAY

in Wisconsin and call upon all citizens to learn more about how to reduce the risk factors associated with falls thus helping individuals maintain their independence and quality of life.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this twenty second day of June in the year two thousand nine.


JIM DOYLE

By the Governor:


DOUGLAS LA
Secretary of St
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